

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Katrina Lam, I am a student from East Hartford, CT. **I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.**

I currently attend Connecticut River Academy located in my hometown of East Hartford, CT. I am a high school senior, and currently am working part-time.

I am a first-generation American, as both my parents are from Vietnam. My dad fled to the states in 1989, and my mother came in 2001. I have 2 younger siblings that were born in the states as well. Throughout my years thus far, my parents have always said that they escaped to the states in order for my siblings and me to have a better life and to have access to resources such as healthcare. Coming from an economically poor country, Vietnamese citizens such as my parents lack access to basic human needs such as clean water, health care, and safe environments for children. Vietnam is not the only country that inhabits these poor qualities—there are hundreds more, and people are trying their best to leave that lifestyle to not only better their lives, but their children's as well.

Although my family has access to healthcare, we do know of undocumented people who do not. There was a time when my mother, who is not an American citizen, didn't have health insurance, and seeing her struggle really broke my heart. She needed certain medications and materials to improve her health and relief pain, however couldn't due to the lack of health insurance. My mom had to suffer through that time, but eventually got the health insurance that was needed. That small chunk of time alone caused her enough stress, I cannot imagine going years for not only yourself but your children as well. Immigration status shouldn't decide whether or not people can get help—these are children we're talking about, some the same as I am. Immigration status doesn't change the fact that these are kids, and all kids deserved to be cared for because they haven't even gotten to experience life yet.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,  
Katrina Marie Lam